

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 09424 010822Z

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W

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R 010718Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1854

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION NATO

JCS WASHDC

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR HEIDELBERG

CINCLANT NORVA

CINCLANTFLT

COMSIXTHFLT

USDELMC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

NAVSUPPACT NAPLES

S E C R E T ROME 9424

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT, GR

SUBJECT: LOCATION OF COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP TWO STAFF IN NAPLES

REF: STATE 146776

1. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY RELOCATION  
COMMANDER CTF 60 TO NAPLES. WE DO NOT SEE RELATIVELY SMALL  
NUMBER OF STAFF AND DEPENDENTS AS SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT  
PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PLANNED DEPARTURE OF OTHER USN  
PERSONNEL FROM THE NAPLES AREA (VR-24, PIEDMONT). CTF 60/CG  
TWO'S EARLIER GREEK INCARNATION IS AN OBSTACLE, THOUGH PERHAPS  
NOT INSUPERABLE. IF THE EMBASSY IS TO APPROACH THE GOI ON  
THIS MATTER, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE  
VERY NEAR FUTURE. WE CANNOT PREDICT THE REACTION, BUT IT SEEMS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 09424 010822Z

CERTAIN THAT THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, PRESENTLY MURKY, IS NOT

LIKELY TO CLEAR SOON. MOREOVER, THE AUGUST VACATION EXODUS WILL PRODUCE A BUREAUCRATIC HIATUS THAT COULD DELAY DECISION SEVERAL WEEKS, AND PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPENDENTS BEFORE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR.

2. EMBASSY PROPOSES A LOW KEY APPROACH AT THE NATO OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL OF MFA WHERE WE ARE LIKELY TO FIND GREATEST RECEPTIVENESS AND LEAST RESISTANCE. WE WOULD DESCRIBE MOVE AS ASSIGNMENT OF COMMANDER CG TWO TO STAFF OF COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET AND CONCOMITANT ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPENDENTS OF CG TWO STAFF, AND REFER TO OBVIOUS OPERATIONAL ADVANTAGES IN KEEPING A SENIOR CARRIER GROUP COMMANDER PERMANENTLY IN MEDITERRANEAN. ONLY PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN NAPLES, WE WOULD STRESS, WOULD BE RESIDENCE OF A FEW ADDED USN DEPENDENTS. NO SHIP WOULD BE HOMEPORTED.

3. IF NATO OFFICE DIRECTOR RAISES QUESTION, HOWEVER, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE HIM AS TO PREVIOUS HISTORY OF CG TWO/CTF60. WE CAN, WE BELIEVE, MAKE CASE THAT THIS IS A NEW STAFF (ASSIGNMENT OF REAR ADMIRAL E.J. CARROLL ON 14 JULY WILL STRENGTHEN POSITION) AND THAT DEPENDENT RESIDENCE IN NAPLES IS A PERSONNEL SUPPORT FUNCTION, NOT AN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY OF THE KIND WE ASSURED GOI WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO ITALY FROM GREECE. THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCING, ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS POSITION DEPENDS, AS DOES IN FACT MOST OF OUR PRESENCE IN ITALY, SIMPLY ON GOOD WILL OF THE GOI.

4. CHANCES ARE GOOD MATTER WILL NOT GO BEYOND NATO DIRECTORATE MFA. IN WORST CASE SITUATION, THAT IS, IF NATO DIRECTOR IDENTIFIES AND CANNOT ON OWN AUTHORITY OVERLOOK THE GREEK CONNECTION, WE WOULD SUGGEST REMOVING THE ISSUE FROM THE MFA BUREAUCRACY AND TAKING IT UP AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ACHIEVING RESULTS THERE, BUT IT IS A CONTINGENCY FOR WHICH WE MUST BE PREPARED. VOLPE

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NNN

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